

## Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, PROP, CE

SUBJ: USSR-STAGED 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF "DEFEAT OF HITLERITE  
FASCISM"

1. SUMMARY: "30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY OVER HITLERITE FASCISM" RECEIVED EXTREMELY HEAVY PRESS PLAY MAY 7 AND 8. SOVIET AUTHORS AND "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS" DEPICTED WORLD WAR II MILITARY STRUGGLE AS ESSENTIALLY GERMAN-SOVIET AFFAIR. SOVIET AMBASSADOR RAFIK NISHANOV DECLARED SOVIET ARMS DEFEATED NAZI "WORLD IMPERIALIST FORCES" AND GDR ENVOY LAUDED "MIRACULOUS" GDR-USSR LINKS. CZECH MAY 9 NATIONAL DAY STATEMENT PRAISED "GLORIOUS SOVIET ARMY". ACTING PRIME MINISTER MAITHRIPALA SENANAYAKE, MINISTER OF FISHERIES GEORGE RAJAPAKSE, AND LAWYER-JUDGE WITH LONG-TIME COMMUNIST BLOC TIES, JAYA PATHRIANA, EULOGIZED SOVIET ACHIEVEMENTS. ONLY ANURA BANDARANAIKE AMONG SRI LANKA FIGURES DISPUTED SOVIET INTERPRETATION OF HISTORY, POINTING OUT THAT UNITED EFFORT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR VICTORY. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING PREVIEWS IN SUNDAY MAY 4 PRESS, THREE-DAY BLITZ RE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET ARMY "TRIUMPH" OVER NAZISM HIT SRI LANKA'S ENGLISH AND VERNACULAR PRESS MAY 7 AND 8. SOVIET UNION'S DECISIVE ROLE IN DESTRUCTION  
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OF "HITLERITE AND JAPANESE MILIARISM" AND ROLE OF

"ASIAN PEOPLES WHO WAGED A CONTINUOUS LIBERATION STRUGGLE AGAINST THE COLONIAL OPPRESSORS AND MILITARIST OCCUPATIONISTS," CONSTITUTED PRINCIPAL THEMES. SOVIET-GERMAN 1939 PACT PRAISED AS WAY TO POSTPONE CONFLICT UNTIL USSR STRENGTH WAS SUFFICIENT TO DEFEAT HITLER.

3. AMBASSADOR FROM USSR, GDR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND POLAND MADE SPEECHES AND PUT OUT PRESS ITEMS. AMBASSADOR NISHANOV LINKED SOVIET MILITARY SUCCESS WITH SURVIVAL OF SOVIET UNION, "WORLD CIVILIZATION, PROGRESS, AND DEMOCRACY." AMBASSADOR KRAFT BOMBED OF GDR CONDEMNED HITLER FASCISM, DRIVEN BY "MONOPOLY CAPITALISM AND BIG MILITARIST LANDLORDS". IN CZECH NATIONAL DAY PRESS SPECIAL MAY 9 AMBASSADOR FRANTISEK MALIK EXPRESSED "DEEP GRATITUDE" TO THE SOVIET PEOPLE WHO CARRIED THE MAIN BURDEN OF SECOND WORLD WAR.

4. CEYLONese CONTRIBUTIONS ECHOED SOVIET THESIS ABOUT DECISIVE VICTORY ON EASTERN FRONT. RAJAPAKSE AND JAYA PATHIRANA, A LEFTIST IDEOLOGUE IN JUDGE'S CLOTHING, IN CAPACITY AS PRESIDENTS OF "NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY OVER FASCISM IN SECOND WORLD WAR", ISSUED STATEMENTS PRAISING SOVIET ARMS AND "SOCIALIST COMMONWEALTH" AND WARNED OF NEW FASCIST DICTATORSHIPS FOR UNWARY NATIONS. MINISTER OF HOUSING PIETER KEUNEMAN AND S.A. WICKREMASINGHE, PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF SRI LANKA COMMUNIST PARTY, NOTED EXPANSION OF "SOCIALISM" FROM "SINGLE COUNTRY INTO A WORLD SYSTEM" IN LAST 30 YEARS. ACTING PRIME MINISTER SENANAYAKE LAUDED ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOVIET ARMS, AND RECALLED CHILE AS EXAMPLE OF USE OF VIOLENCE TO OPPOSE "PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL CHANGE."

5. ONLY PROMINENT SRI LANKA FIGURE TO CHALLENGE SOVIET INTERPRETATION WAS PRIME MINISTER'S SON ANURA BANDARANAIKE. ANURA SAID: "RUSSIA MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFEAT OF FASCISM", BUT "DEFEAT OF FASCISM WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE UNITED EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, FRANCE, YUGOSLAVIA, AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES." HIS REMARKS WERE REPORTED UNDER TWO-COLUMN HEADLINE IN "CEYLON DAILY NEWS" -- "DEFEAT OF FASCISM NOT BY RUSSIA ALONE -- ANURA."

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6. EDITOR OF AFTERNOON DAILY "CEYLON OBSERVER" HAS ALSO PROMISED TO PRINT LOW-KEY, FACTUAL STORY BY PAO BRIGGS THAT SETS RECORD STRAIGHT.

7. COMMENT ENTIRE AFFAIR BETRAYED HEAVY-HANDED SOVIET STAGE MANAGEMENT, CP BXM PLAYING ONLY MODEST ROLE. FULSOME PRESS PLAY WAS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF INCREASING SOVIET PUBLICITY EFFORT WE HAVE NOTED OVER LAST SIX MONTHS. MAY

MARKS SO MANY LEFT-WING ANNIVERSARYIES IN SRI LANKA THAT  
IMPACT OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS MAY BE DULLED BEFORE  
LONG, BUT, AS SOVIET PUBLICITY EXERCISE ABETTED BY GSL,  
SHOW WAS IMPRESSIVE.  
VAN HOLLEN

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